

Amendments to the Drawings:

The Office Action has objected to the drawings because Figures 6 and 10 fail to clearly show the structural configuration and elements as described in the specification.

The Office Action does not specify which elements essential to the invention are missing from Figures 6 and 10. It is noted that Figure 6 is one of the two scanning units that comprise the invention, and thus does not show all elements of the claims in this single drawing. If, for example, the Office Action means that the “tether” is not shown in Figure 6, that element is shown in Figure 4 by tether 33 and tether 31. It is not necessary that every single element that comprises the invention be shown in every single drawing of the patent application. When one of the elements is shown in more detail, for example, Figure 6, other elements of the invention may not be shown in the detailed drawing.

With respect to Figure 10, Applicant must again speculate as to what essential claim element the Examiner believes is missing from this drawing. If however, the Office Action is once again referring to a tether, Applicant has modified Figure 10 to show that camera power 85, raw image data 83, and motor drive signal 84 comprise tether 31. This is clear from the text found on page 13, first paragraph which specifies that these subcomponents comprise a tether. The numeral “31” has been added after “tether” to more clearly specify what is shown in Figure 10. If the Examiner believes that other essential elements are not shown in the drawings it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant’s attorney listed below to make those changes via an Examiner’s Amendment.

A copy of the formal drawings are submitted herewith with a copy of the Letter to the Official Draftsperson which incorporates the changes required by the Office Action. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Enclosures: Replacement Figure 10
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claim 41 has been cancelled. The claims remaining in the application are 1-40 and 42.

Support for the amendments to the claims specifying that the tether interface passes power from the first scanning unit to the second scanning unit and also transmits digital information from the second scanning unit to the first scanning unit is found on page 12, starting at line 5. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,841). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

There appears to be a misunderstanding on the part of the Examiner to what is shown in the Nakajima et al. patent. Part number 164, shown in Figure 6 of Nakajima et al., is an internal connection in each of the scanners. This is shown more clearly in Figure 5, which shows the controller connected to other component parts of a scanner. See also column 7, lines 2-10. Thus, the Nakajima et al. references does not have a tether connection between the two scanners shown.

In addition, the Nakajima et al. patent functions differently than the components of the present invention. Referring to Figure 1 in Nakajima et al. it is seen that the sheet-fed scanning units 100c and 100b, and the platen scanning unit 100a each communicate with a main controlling unit 300. The purpose of this in the Nakajima et al. reference is so that each of the scanning units communicates independently with a main controlling unit.

In the present invention, as in the independent claims, the platen scanner is tethered for the purposes of providing flexibility as to location of the platen scanner with respect to the sheet-fed scanner, which provides one interface to a host computer. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art by showing the additional features of the tether interface for providing power from the first scanning unit to the second scanning unit. Connecting the platen scanner to the sheet-fed scanner also

reduces the number of additional components that would normally be incorporated in the platen scanner, thereby reducing cost.

The Office Action has rejected claims 33-42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Westcott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,433). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to the Westcott et al. reference there is no tether connecting the flatbed scanner with the automated document fed scanner. In Westcott et al. the two units are physically connected. This is different from claim 33 of the present invention, wherein a tether connects the platen scanner to a separate scanning unit, which provides drive signals and power to the platen scanner via the tether.

The Office Action is incorrect when stating that Westcott et al. shows a digital camera. The Office Action states that the CCD of Figure 4b of Westcott et al. is a digital camera. The CCD in Westcott et al. is a sensor for capturing an image of a document on the glass plate of the platen scanner. It is not suitable for removal from the flatbed scanner and taking a digital photograph of a passenger. While CCD in platen scanners and in digital cameras share some functionality they do not operate the same as a separate digital camera and separate platen scanner as in the present invention.

In addition, the Westcott et al. patent is an improper reference. Both Westcott et al. and the present patent application are assigned to the Eastman Kodak Company, and therefore Westcott et al. is not a prior art reference to the present invention.

CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, they

are invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

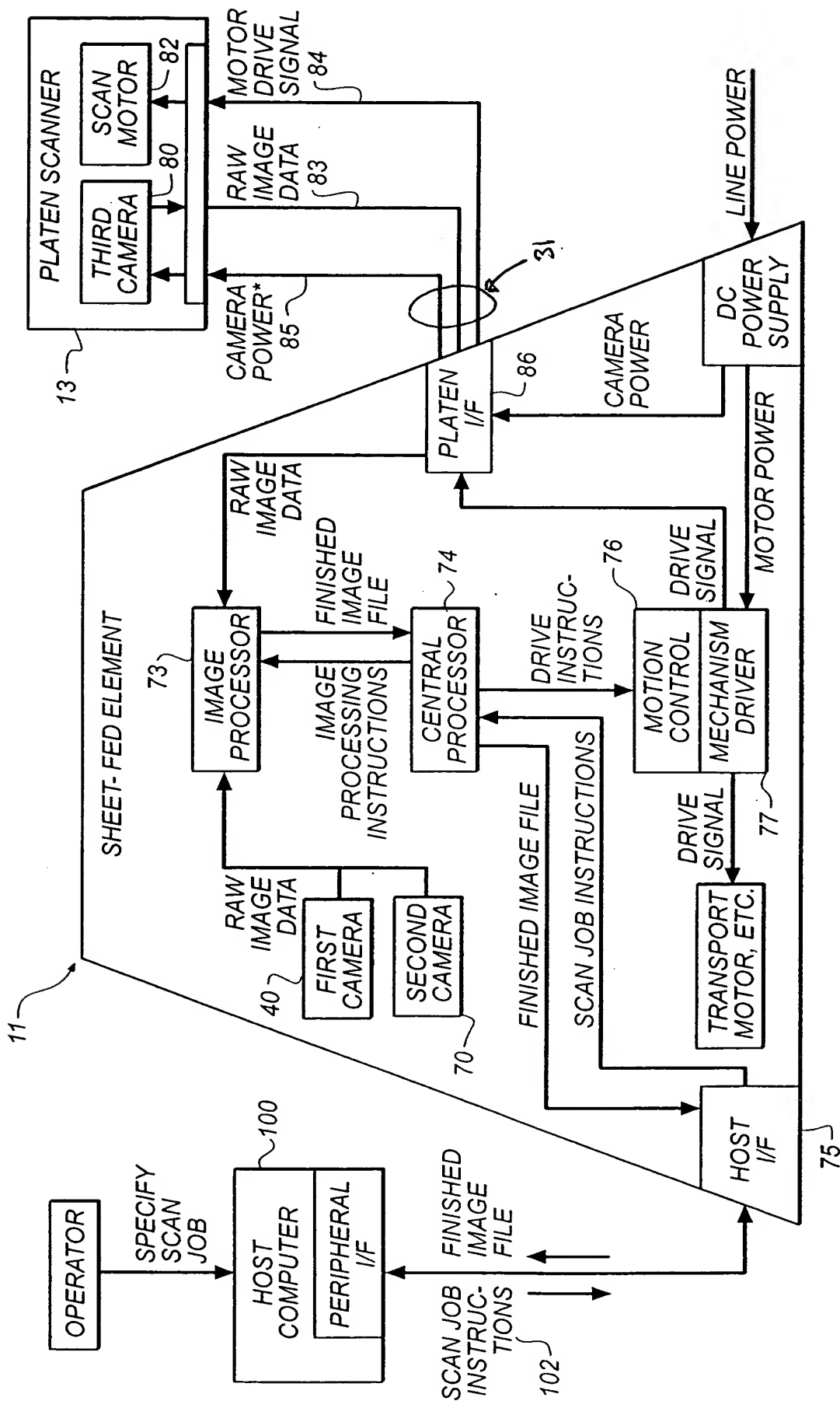


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.

Enclosures: Replacement Figure 10
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes
Copy of Letter to the Draftsperson
Copy of Formal Drawings



*I/F WIRE CABLE TETHER

FIG. 10